

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 333**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wright**

February 16, 2001

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An act to amend Sections 11155.5 and 16516.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 333, as introduced, Wright. Foster care.

(1) Existing law authorizes a child declared a ward or dependent child of the juvenile court, who is age 16 years or older, and who is a participant in the Independent Living Program pursuant to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, to retain cash savings, not to exceed \$5,000, including interest, accumulated pursuant to the child's Independent Living Program case plan.

This bill would increase the amount the child is authorized to retain as cash savings to \$10,000 and revise certain references to federal law.

(2) Existing law requires all foster children placed in group homes by county welfare departments or county probation departments to be visited at least monthly by a county social worker or probation officer.

This bill would require each of those visits to include a private discussion between the foster child and the county social worker or probation officer. The bill would prohibit the contents of the discussion from being disclosed to the foster parent or group home staff.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 11155.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11155.5. (a) In addition to the personal property permitted by other provisions of this part, a child declared a ward or dependent child of the juvenile court, who is age 16 years or older, and who is a participant in the *Improved Independent Living Program* pursuant to the ~~Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-272)~~ *Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169)* may retain cash savings, not to exceed ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~ *ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)*, including interest, accumulated pursuant to the child's *Improved Independent Living Program* case plan. The cash savings shall be the child's own money and shall be deposited by the child or on behalf of the child in any bank or savings and loan institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The cash savings shall be for the child's use for purposes directly related to emancipation pursuant to Part 6 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 11 of the Family Code.

(b) The withdrawal of the savings shall require the written approval of the child's probation officer or social worker and shall be directly related to the goal of emancipation.

SEC. 2. Section 16516.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

16516.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, all foster children placed in group homes by county welfare departments or county probation departments shall be visited at least monthly by a county social worker or probation officer. *Each visit shall include a private discussion between the foster child and the county social worker or probation officer. The discussion shall not be held in the presence or immediate vicinity of the foster parent or group home staff. The contents of the private discussion shall not be disclosed to the foster parent or group home staff.*

(b) Notwithstanding Section 10101, the state shall pay 100 percent of the nonfederal costs associated with the monthly

- 1 visitation requirement in subdivision (a) in excess of the minimum
- 2 semiannual visits required under current regulations.

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